

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEARCH OF  
TWO CELLULAR PHONES RECOVERED  
FROM RYAN PARTRIDGE, CURRENTLY  
LOCATED AT FBI'S PORTLAND OFFICE

No. 2:23-mj-302-KFW

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF AN**  
**APPLICATION UNDER RULE 41 FOR A**  
**WARRANT TO SEARCH AND SEIZE**

I, Jonathan Duquette, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

**INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND**

1. I make this affidavit in support of an application under Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure for a search warrant authorizing the examination of property—two cellular telephones—which are currently in law enforcement possession, and the extraction from that property of electronically stored information described in Attachment B.

2. I am a Task Force Officer with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”). I have been in this position since June 2015, and I have been a Task Force Officer in FBI’s Boston Division since January 2018. I am also a Border Patrol Agent with the U.S. Border Patrol and have been in this position since December 2009. In my career, I have investigated numerous crimes, including drug crimes.

3. This affidavit is intended to show only that there is sufficient probable cause for the requested warrant and does not set forth all of my knowledge about this matter.

**IDENTIFICATION OF THE DEVICES TO BE EXAMINED**

4. The property to be searched consists of two cellular phones: a black Apple iPhone Model XR with a cracked screen and a cracked back cover, bearing IMEI 354065523164759, and a black and blue Motorola Model XT2163DL, bearing IMEI 358289932197566, (together, the "Devices"). The Devices are currently located at the FBI's Portland Regional Office located at 100 Middle Street in Portland. An image of the Devices appears below:



5. The applied-for warrant would authorize the forensic examination of the Devices for the purpose of identifying electronically stored data particularly described in Attachment B.

**PROBABLE CAUSE**

6. I hereby adopt and incorporate by reference my affidavit filed in support of the Criminal Complaint charging RYAN PARTRIDGE, the defendant, with distribution of fentanyl, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841, and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1), pending at 1:23-mj-0269-JCN, attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

7. During the course of the traffic stop described in Exhibit 1, Officer Yorks of the Augusta Police Department conducted a probable cause search of the Subject Vehicle. When Officer Yorks searched the grey backpack that had been between PARTRIDGE's feet in the front passenger seat, he recovered a black Apple iPhone with a cracked screen and a cracked back cover, later determined to be a Model XR and to bear IMEI 354065523164759. Subsequently, during a search pursuant to the arrest of PARTRIDGE, officers recovered a black and blue Motorola cellphone, later determined to be a Model XT2163DL bearing IMEI 358289932197566.

8. Based on my training and experience, I know that drug dealers, such as PARTRIDGE, typically utilize multiple cellular phones in conducting drug distribution, in an attempt to avoid detection by law enforcement. They also use different devices for different clients and purposes. The cellular phones of drug dealers typically contain electronic correspondence with and among drug clients and drug suppliers, as well as location information, photographs, and other information tending to show the identity of the user of the device and drug suppliers and clients.

9. The Devices are currently in the lawful possession of the FBI. It came into the FBI's possession following the seizure described above. Therefore, while the FBI

might already have all necessary authority to examine the Devices, I seek this additional warrant out of an abundance of caution to be certain that an examination of the Devices will comply with the Fourth Amendment and other applicable laws.

10. The Devices are currently in storage at FBI's Portland Regional Office. In my training and experience, I know that the Devices have been stored in a manner in which their contents are, to the extent material to this investigation, in substantially the same state as they were when the Devices first came into the possession of the FBI.

#### **TECHNICAL TERMS**

11. Based on my training and experience, I use the following technical terms to convey the following meanings:

a. Wireless telephone: A wireless telephone (or mobile telephone, or cellular telephone) is a handheld wireless device used for voice and data communication through radio signals. These telephones send signals through networks of transmitter/receivers, enabling communication with other wireless telephones or traditional "land line" telephones. A wireless telephone usually contains a "call log," which records the telephone number, date, and time of calls made to and from the phone. In addition to enabling voice communications, wireless telephones offer a broad range of capabilities. These capabilities include: storing names and phone numbers in electronic "address books;" sending, receiving, and storing text messages and e-mail; taking, sending, receiving, and storing still photographs and moving video; storing and playing back audio files; storing dates, appointments, and other information on personal calendars; and accessing and downloading information from the Internet.

Wireless telephones may also include global positioning system (“GPS”) technology for determining the location of the device.

b. Digital camera: A digital camera is a camera that records pictures as digital picture files, rather than by using photographic film. Digital cameras use a variety of fixed and removable storage media to store their recorded images. Images can usually be retrieved by connecting the camera to a computer or by connecting the removable storage medium to a separate reader. Removable storage media include various types of flash memory cards or miniature hard drives. Most digital cameras also include a screen for viewing the stored images. This storage media can contain any digital data, including data unrelated to photographs or videos.

c. Portable media player: A portable media player (or “MP3 Player” or iPod) is a handheld digital storage device designed primarily to store and play audio, video, or photographic files. However, a portable media player can also store other digital data. Some portable media players can use removable storage media. Removable storage media include various types of flash memory cards or miniature hard drives. This removable storage media can also store any digital data. Depending on the model, a portable media player may have the ability to store very large amounts of electronic data and may offer additional features such as a calendar, contact list, clock, or games.

d. GPS: A GPS navigation device uses the Global Positioning System to display its current location. It often contains records the locations where it has been. Some GPS navigation devices can give a user driving or walking directions to another location. These devices can contain records of the addresses or locations involved in

such navigation. The Global Positioning System (generally abbreviated “GPS”) consists of 24 NAVSTAR satellites orbiting the Earth. Each satellite contains an extremely accurate clock. Each satellite repeatedly transmits by radio a mathematical representation of the current time, combined with a special sequence of numbers. These signals are sent by radio, using specifications that are publicly available. A GPS antenna on Earth can receive those signals. When a GPS antenna receives signals from at least four satellites, a computer connected to that antenna can mathematically calculate the antenna’s latitude, longitude, and sometimes altitude with a high level of precision.

12. Based on my training, experience, and research, I know that the Devices have capabilities that allow them to serve as a wireless telephone, digital camera, portable media player, GPS navigation device, and PDA. In my training and experience, examining data stored on devices of this type can uncover, among other things, evidence that reveals or suggests who possessed or used the device.

#### **ELECTRONIC STORAGE AND FORENSIC ANALYSIS**

13. Based on my knowledge, training, and experience, I know that electronic devices can store information for long periods of time. Similarly, things that have been viewed via the Internet are typically stored for some period of time on the device. This information can sometimes be recovered with forensics tools.

14. *Forensic evidence.* As further described in Attachment B, this application seeks permission to locate not only electronically stored information that might serve as direct evidence of the crimes described on the warrant, but also forensic evidence that establishes how the Device was used, the purpose of its use, who used it, and when.

There is probable cause to believe that this forensic electronic evidence might be on the Device because:

- a. Data on the storage medium can provide evidence of a file that was once on the storage medium but has since been deleted or edited, or of a deleted portion of a file (such as a paragraph that has been deleted from a word processing file)
- b. Forensic evidence on a device can also indicate who has used or controlled the device. This “user attribution” evidence is analogous to the search for “indicia of occupancy” while executing a search warrant at a residence.
- c. A person with appropriate familiarity with how an electronic device works may, after examining this forensic evidence in its proper context, be able to draw conclusions about how electronic devices were used, the purpose of their use, who used them, and when.
- d. The process of identifying the exact electronically stored information on a storage medium that is necessary to draw an accurate conclusion is a dynamic process. Electronic evidence is not always data that can be merely reviewed by a review team and passed along to investigators. Whether data stored on a computer is evidence may depend on other information stored on the computer and the application of knowledge about how a computer behaves. Therefore, contextual information necessary to understand other evidence also falls within the scope of the warrant.

e. Further, in finding evidence of how a device was used, the purpose of its use, who used it, and when, sometimes it is necessary to establish that a particular thing is not present on a storage medium.

15. *Nature of examination.* Based on the foregoing, and consistent with Rule 41(e)(2)(B), the warrant I am applying for would permit the examination of the Devices consistent with the warrant. The examination may require authorities to employ techniques, including but not limited to computer-assisted scans of the entire medium, that might expose many parts of the Devices to human inspection in order to determine whether it is evidence described by the warrant.

16. *Manner of execution.* Because this warrant seeks only permission to examine Devices already in law enforcement's possession, the execution of this warrant does not involve the physical intrusion onto a premises. Consequently, I submit there is reasonable cause for the Court to authorize execution of the warrant at any time in the day or night.

## **CONCLUSION**

17. I submit that this affidavit supports probable cause for a search warrant authorizing the examination of the Devices described in Attachment A to seek the items described in Attachment B.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan Duquette  
Task Force Officer  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to telephonically and signed  
electronically in accordance with the  
requirements of Rule 4.1 of the Federal Rules  
of Criminal Procedures

Date: Oct 27 2023

City and state: Portland, Maine



The seal of the United States District Court for the District of Maine is a circular emblem. It features an eagle with spread wings, holding an olive branch and arrows. The words "UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT" are inscribed around the top edge, and "DISTRICT OF MAINE" is at the bottom. Below the seal, the text "Judge's signature" is written above a line, and "Karen Frink Wolf, U.S. Magistrate Judge" is written above another line, with "Printed name and title" written below it.